



Penny Fender, Superintendent
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March 5, 2025

Representative Courtney Neron
Chair, House Committee on Education

RE: Public Input for HB 3037

Dear Chair Neron and Members of the Committee:

As North Central ESD Superintendent I support HB 3037 in its current draft and ask the House Committee to consider amending the Bill to include amendment(s) that specifically address flexibility in funding for ESDs and Districts in managing small grants. Speaking from the ESD perspective, our Comprehensive Support Plans include funding streams for the following:

- Student Success Act Technical Assistance, and Every Day Matters, *which have minimum grant amounts*
- Small Rural Schools Technical Assistance
- High School Success (\$11,695 for the biennium) - High School Success is the smallest of our funding streams

We could reduce the administrative burden on budget management and be more effective with those funds if we could have the flexibility to add them to one of the other funding streams. For example:

- In looking at our SSA Technical Assistance program and the support we provide for our districts' Career and Technical Education Programs it would be fiscally more effective since we have the same person, currently overseeing the High School Success Funding Stream to pool these resources into one pool and track them under one funding stream. This would result in a more effective way to utilize staff allocation and resources.

This model is currently in place for managing federal funds. The federal REAP Flex model allows small districts to "flex" their funds into another federal program. For example:

- When I work with small districts on their federal programs budget narratives, I have them "flex" their Title IV funds (\$10,000 minimum allocated to small districts) into Title I, since they usually must back fill Title I anyway.
- This allows those funds to have more impact on the students they are designed to serve. This same model could be used for our state grant allocations that are so small.

I respectfully request consideration of adding amendments to HB 3037, which would make the management and implementation of funds much more efficient and cost effective. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Penny Fender
Superintendent

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